

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are delighted to inform you that on Tuesday we received a GOLD award for our [OPAL \(Outdoor, Play and Learning\)](#) provision at playtimes. We are very proud of this achievement as it recognises two years of hard work that has been dedicated to improving the play for our children.



The OPAL assessor commented that:

"Every child I spoke to was happy and engaged with OPAL. It was delightful to see the children playing all across the site and having ownership of their space. They have wonderful play opportunities and you have transformed the play space for every child"

What some of the children said they like most about playtime was:

- 'I love that we get to play so many different games'
- 'The fresh air and talking with my friends '
- 'I like the scooter track because it is really fun'
- 'Monkey bars and construction building'
- 'The fairy garden'
- 'I like cup stacking, painting and talking and hanging around with my friends'
- 'Tennis, Basketball, Cricket, Four square, Football and the space hoppers'

Some of the parents' feedback was:

- 'I am genuinely really impressed and love hearing about what my daughter gets up to at playtime. I think it's great for young children and their development to spend time outside.'
- 'My child is very enthusiastic about playtime. He loves the scooter track and the different sports activities available'
- 'It's great for the children to have more options to play with, helping to build on their imaginations.'
- 'The changes are great. My boys always talk about their imaginative play.'
- 'I love the play provision for the all the key stages. Play is so important for children's development even beyond the foundation stage'
- 'The kids always come home happy and always talking about playtime'
- 'The improved play provision is wonderful to see'

Some of the staff feedback included:

- 'There is so much to do during playtime. Children have a chance to be creative, innovative and work as a team'
- 'There is lots of equipment available and they have the freedom to use their imaginations - I have seen lots of games and imagination play since we started OPAL'
- 'Lots to do, a variety of different activities. Children of all ages are able to play and work together. Access to large gross motor play as well as areas for quiet play. Children are encouraged to work together, be creative and have fun!'
- 'The behaviour in school has really improved because the children have so much to engage and explore since OPAL has come to our school.'
- 'As we have progressed, their play has too. I have seen some beautiful co-operative play with different ages, children becoming more confident and better engagement with the resources. It has been nice seeing the children taking on lead roles with games that have started with the adults and they have continued and children going back to the areas and developing their play. There have been children of all ages helping each other. Children seem to come back into class with a positive mindset.'
- 'Open ended activities such as construction - giving children space to be creative and take the activity in their own direction. It's just a shame when it all has to go away at the end.'
- 'The range of different activities all around the playground, It's so nice to see everyone finding their own area of fun and games'

We will continue to strive forward in improving our playtime provision with the aim to reach the platinum standard in 2 years time!

Some of the changes we will be working hard on are:

- Stay and play for parents to see playtime in action
- More greenery using planters and tyres
- Larger social spaces
- The introduction of large scale equipment - tunnels, cable drums, blue barrels and pallets
- Making use of our old/broken electronics
- More physical play opportunities

We thank you for all your support and donations as you have really contributed to GOLD success.

Mrs Julie Bailey
Deputy Headteacher



This is to certify that
Timbercroft Primary School

Gold
Standard Quality Mark
for outdoor play and learning in schools
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OPAL Mentor


Michael Follett, CEO OPAL CIC



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